

**CLAIMS:**

1. A method for treating cystic fibrosis, said method comprising the step of administering a composition comprising a nitrosylating agent to a patient having cystic fibrosis.
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the nitrosylating agent is selected from the group consisting of S-nitrosoglutathione and ethyl nitrite.
3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the composition is formulated as a powder or an aerosol and administered to the nasal mucosa and osteomeatal complex.
4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the composition comprises about 100 to about 150 mcg/kg of GSNO and the composition is delivered by dry powdered inhaler, metered dose inhaler, or alternative nebulization systems selected from the group consisting of ultrasonic, supersonic, or breath actuated nebulizer.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises inhibitors of enzymes that catabolize S-nitrosothiols.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the composition comprises 0.05 ml/kg of 10 mM GSNO in conjunction with bathocouproine disulfinate and/or aurothioglucose.
7. A method of enhancing the expression and maturation of CFTR, said method comprising contacting the respiratory epithelium with a composition comprising a nitrosylating agent.
8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the nitrosylating agent is selected from the group consisting of S-nitrosoglutathione and ethyl nitrite.